

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SR-02 ORM-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 171222Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5046

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL CALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5046

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR, SGEN, OAS, CASC, SREF

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH LUIS REQUE, EXECSEC IAHR

REF: STATE 202284

1. SUMMARY. LUIS REQUE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TOLD EMBOFF OCT 16 THAT WHILE GENERALLY IMPRESSED WITH GOOD FAITH OF GOC LEADERS, THERE EXISTS ENOUGH INDICATION OF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO WARRANT HIS RECOMMENDING THAT IAHR CREATE SPECIAL SUBCOMMISSION TO STUDY SITUATION IN FURTHER DEPTH.
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF BREAKFASTED OCT 16 WITH DR. REQUE, WHO STATED HE HAD BEEN TREATED WELL BY GOC DURING HIS BRIEF STAY IN CHILE. HE HAD LENGTHY INTERVIEWS WITH MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND INTERIOR AND WAS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WHEREVER HE WANTED AND TO SPEAK WITH ANYONE INCLUDING DETAINEES. REQUE WAS TAKEN TO VISIT ONE OF PRES ALLENDE'S HOMES AND WAS VISIBLY IMPRESSED BY LARGE QUANTITY OF ARMS FOUND THERE.

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3. REQUE EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT UPPER LEVELS OF GOC ARE

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY SETTING UP OF SAFEHAVENS FOR REFUGEES AND BY AUTHORIZING HIS VISIT AND THAT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL GROUPS INCLUDING ONE FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WHICH WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY. HE SUSPECTS, HOWEVER, THAT AT LOWER LEVELS VIOLATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND ARE PROBABLY CONTINUING. HE ALSO FINDS A DUALITY AMONG POPULATION AT LARGE, WHEREIN UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PLACE CREDENCE IN REPORTS OF EXECUTION OR TORTURE BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN LARGELY UNAFFECTED. ON OTHER HAND, REQUE FOUND IN HIS VISITS TO LOWER CLASS AND SLUM NEIGHBORHOODS A HIGH LEVEL OF FEAR AND APPREHENSION. HE STATED HE HAS DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF ARREST OF 20 INDIVIDUALS FROM ONE SLUM AREA AND SUBSEQUENT DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES OF SOME OF THEM.

4. REQUE STATED THAT ONCE DETAINEES ARRIVE AT NATIONAL STADIUM THEY ARE GENERALLY TREATED WELL, BUT HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT MIGHT BE TAKING PLACE IN INDIVIDUAL POLICE STATIONS. HE SAID NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS HAD VOICED TO HIM CONFIDENCE IN ARMED FORCES BUT HAD TOLD HIM POLICE ARE TORTURING AND EXECUTING INDIVIDUALS. HE STATED HE HAD SPOKEN WITH REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN SAFEHAVENS WHO AFFIRMED THEY HAD BEEN TORTURED. REQUE ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CASES OF AMCITS FRANK TERUGGI AND CHARLES HORMAN. EMBOFF TOLD HIM EMBASSY CONTINUES UNSATISFIED WITH EXPLANATIONS REGARDING TERUGGI'S DEATH GIVEN BY GOC AND THAT WE HAVE ASKED GOC AT HIGHEST LEVELS FOR CLARIFYING INFORMATION REGARDING HIS DEATH AND FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING HORMAN WHO REMAINS MISSING.

5. REQUE STATED HE WAS ASSURED BY MININTERIOR BONILLA THAT INDIVIDUALS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEFENSE BY AN ATTORNEY AS OUTLINED IN THE MILITARY CODE OF JUSTICE (PRESS HAS REPORTED ABOUT 50 SUCH EXECUTIONS FOLLOWING DEATH SENTENCES FROM MILITARY COURTS.) REQUE DID NOT CHALLENGE BONILLA'S ASSERTION BUT INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HAD TIME TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF SANTIAGO TO VISIT THE EXECUTION LOCALITIES. REQUE INTENDS TO SPEAK TODAY WITH PRES OF SUPREME COURT AND PRES OF LAW ASSOCIATION ABOUT THE MATTER AND OTHERS, INCLUDING QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT UP OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF COMMON CRIMES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED PRIOR TO

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SEPT 11 SHOULD BE TRIED BY CIVIL OR MILITARY COURTS. HE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN JURIDICAL FATE OF THE HIGH UP OFFICIALS CURRENTLY DETAINED ON DAWSON ISLAND. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE CASE OF FORMER FONMIN ORLANDO LETELIER AS A "GOOD MAN" WHO "FELL INTO A TRAP." HE INDICATED HE WOULD BE SEEING WIVES OF SOME DAWSON ISLAND DETAINEES TODAY. (HE DID NOT MENTION NAMES BUT IT PROBABLE THAT MRS LETELIER IS ONE OF THEM.)

6. REQUE IS LIKEWISE CONCERNED ABOUT RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO WORK AND MENTIONED THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE PROBABLY LOST THEIR JOBS WHILE IN DETENTION OR HAVE BEEN SUMMARILY FIRED FOR THEIR UNIDAD POPULAR BELIEFS.

7. GIVEN HIS IMPRESSIONS, WHICH HE WAS CAREFUL TO DESCRIBE AS "PRELIMINARY", REQUE INDICATED HE WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CURRENTLY MEETING IN CALI CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A TEAM TO RETURN TO CHILE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. REQUE WILL DEPART SANTIAGO OCT 17 AND WILL TRAVEL TO CALI WITH SHORT STOPOVER IN BOGOTA.
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